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Action

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Control:

17262

Rec'd:

OCTOBER 23, 1962

1:27 PM

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Info

FROM: THE HAGUE

17 11

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 282, OCTOBER 23

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 282, INFORMATION PARIS 56.

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1. MORNING PRESS HAS IN GENERAL REACTED WITH FIRM EXPRESSION UNDER-
STANDING AND SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT'S OCT 22 SPEECH ON CUBA.
VARIOUS PAPERS POINT OUT THAT SPEECH HAS REMOVED ALL DOUBT ABOUT US
STAND. FOR EXAMPLE, CATHOLIC DE VOLASRANT, WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS
GOV'T LINE, WROTE THAT "THE NEW AMERICAN MEASURES WILL OF COURSE
RAISE A STORM OF PROTEST FROM SOVIET UNION AND ITS SATELLITES. BUT
THE ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH ON EARLIER OCCASIONS WERE
CRITICAL OF THE CONTROL MEASURES PLANNED BY THE US ON FOREIGN SHIP-
PING WILL BE ACTING WISELY IN REFRAINING FROM CRITICIZING THE LATEST
MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT. FOR IN HIS ADDRESS PRESIDENT
KENNEDY CITED NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE LENDING A VERY CRITICAL
CHARACTER TO THE SITUATION IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA, WHICH NOT
ONLY FORMS A DANGER TO THE UNITED STATES BUT ALSO TO THE US."

OTHER IMPORTANT PAPERS REFLECTED SIMILAR LINE. 2. IN REPLY QUESTIONS
ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S STATEMENT, LOCAL NEWS SERVICES QUOTES FONOFF
SPOKESMAN AS HAVING SAID THAT, "AS AN INITIAL REACTION", HE COULD
SAY "IT IS FULLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE AMERICANS FIND THEMSELVES IN
A POSITION WHICH REQUIRES ACTION. NATURALLY, THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS
TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SPEECH WHICH WILL REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY. IN
ANY CASE, IT IS GRATIFYING THAT THE US HAS MADE ITS POLICY SO CLEAR
THAT ALL PARTIES KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY STAND." 3. AT OPENING
SECOND CHAMBER OCTOBER 23, PRIMMIN DE QUAY WAS ASKED BY LABOR OPPOS-
ITION LEADER IF GOV'T COULD STATE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ACTION OF ITS
NATO ALLY US IN CUBA MATTER. PRIMMIN REPLIED THAT HE HAD LEARNED ONLY

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-2- 352, OCTOBER 23, FROM THE HAGUE

15 MINUTES BEFORE THAT FOREGOING QUESTION WAS TO BE ASKED AND THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO STUDY MATTER. PRIMMIN. ADDED THAT HE HAD LEARNED SHORTLY BEFORE 12:00 CLOCK LAST NIGHT (7. CORRECT) THE MAJOR POINTS OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, HAD READ PORTIONS IN DUTCH PRESS THIS MORNING, BUT HAD NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY FULL TEXT IN DUTCH OR ENGLISH. MATTER WAS MUCH TOO IMPORTANT FOR IMPROMPTU REACTION. ASKED BY COMMIE MEMBER IF GOVT WOULD PUBLICLY STATE ITS POSITION. LATER, DE QUAY SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON COURSE OF EVENTS. GOVT MIGHT FIND IT PREFERABLE INFORM CHAMBER COMMITTEES. IN REPLY TO STATEMENT BY FONOFF SPOKESMAN. (PAR. 2.) PRIMMIN SAID IN REPLY QUESTION THAT THIS MUST BE SEEN AGAINST BACKGROUND OF RAPID PACE OF EVENTS AND IN LIGHT OF FACT GOVT HAD NOT YET HAD CHANCE FOR THOROUGH STUDY NOR HAD YET RECEIVED A REPORT ON EXCHANGES OF VIEWS IN NATO.

COMMENT: PRIMMIN'S PRIVATE REACTION AND THAT OF OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS REPORTED SEPARATELY.

RICE

JTD

NOTE: Advance copy to SS-O 10/23/LWH.

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